SOME OBSERVATIONS

Made upon the

Virginian Nutts,

Imported from

The INDIES:

SHEWING

Their Admirable VIRTUE

AGAINST THE

SCURVY.

Written by a Doctor of Physick in the Countrey to Dr. *Croon*, one of the *Royal Society* in *London*, 1681.

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BRITISH MUSEUM
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1787

Circulan Parts

THE INDIANS

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SOME OBSERVATIONS Made upon the Virginian Nutts, IMPORTED FROM The INDIES: In a LETTER, &c.

SIR,

I Remember that the Reverend Dr. *Spratt*, the present Bishop of *Rochester*, in his Eloquent History of the *Royal Society*, tells us, that we are extreamly beholding unto my Lord *Bacon*, for his Communicating to the World the Remedies which were Experimen-

tally found advantageous in the Cure of the *Sweating Sickneſs*, in the time of *Henry* the Seventh; and therefore I hope I may deſerve thanks for informing my Countrey-men what I have after long Experience found uſeful in the Cure of the Scurvy, which now proves as troubleſome to *England* as that Diſeaſe did then, though not ſo mortal.

And the Remedy is the *Virginean Nutts*, or rather *Kernels*, which grow upon the *Locus-Tree*, deſcribed by Mr. *Ray*, and by *Lygon*, and ſeveral other Authors. But none have made thoſe particular Experiments I have done upon the uſe of the Nutts, and I find them to anſwer the ſame Intentions that the *Gum Animi* doth, which flows from the ſame Tree. It mightily opens Obſtructions of the Liver, and Refines the whole Maſs of Blood, and mends a Scorbutick ill habit of Body, by impregnating that Vital Liquor with ſuch volatile Salts, as reſtore it when flat and languiſhing, to a more pure and ſpirituous State, and thereby preſerves it from Fixation, and clears the Skin from Spots and all Impurities.

I knew a Gentlewoman who was highly Scorbutical, and much afflicted with various Fermentations in her Blood, which cauſed the Eruption of ſtrange Pimples and troubleſome Blemiſhes in her Face and Hands, with great Faintings, Wearineſs and Indiſpoſition to Motion, and wandering Pains in her Limbs, her Teeth looſe, and Gums ſore; her Body cover'd with Scurf like a Leproſie; and yet by the uſe of this Medicine mixed with all her Drink and Spoon-meat, in one Months time ſhe was perfectly recovered.

Mr. *Grant* obſerves, that this Diſeaſe of the Scurvy doth wonderfully encreaſe every year in our Bills of Mortality, and thereupon wiſheth that ſome effectual Remedies might be found out by Phyſicians, and I am well ſatisfied that this is one.

I could tell you of a Man about Fifty years of Age, who by living in a Groſs Air, and uſing an ill Dyet, and wanting Exerciſe, had his whole Maſs of Blood ſo corrupted, and

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the Spirits ſo evaporated, that they became dead and flat, like decayed Drinks, and Eager and ſharp like Vinegar: And yet notwithſtanding by the uſe of a Tincture, Spirit and Extract drawn out of theſe Nutts, he became ſtrong, lively and chearful, and was fit for all Employments both of Body and Mind.

An old Gentlewoman, who by a long fit of Sickneſs was brought into the Scurvy, the fine parts of her Blood were run into a fluid Salt, and ſhe found a univerſal Languor upon her Spirits, which made her Life uncomfortable; ſhe uſed many Medicines, and had much Advice, and at length a Friend told her of theſe Drops, which any one may make if they pleaſe to procure the Nuts, for the Medicins are drawn out only with ſmall Wines. Theſe Medicines perfectly recover'd her to a ſtate of Health, and good Habit of Body.

A middle-aged Perſon who was much afflicted with the Scurvy, and had many blew Spots in his Skin, great Wearineſs and Faint-

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neſs upon his Spirits, with wandering Pains in divers parts of his Body, very bad decayed Teeth, and little or no Appetite to Food, with ſowre Belchings and offenſive Fumes ariſing up to his Noſtrils, and ſeveral other ſcorbutical Symptoms; he had taken great Quantities of Spirits of Scurvy-graſs, and ſtill found himſelf grow worſe and worſe; at length I gave him the Drops drawn out of theſe Nuts, about twelve at a time, the Yellow in the Morning, the White at Noon, and the Black at Night: They may be given in Purging Waters, or in Mum, or in any agreeable Spoon-meat.

I could give many more Examples, of Cures wrought by them, but 'twill be needleſs.

FINIS.